



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/880,688	06/13/2001	Annemarie Poustka	POUSTKA-2	6614
20151	7590	04/16/2004	EXAMINER	
HENRY M FEIEREISEN, LLC 350 FIFTH AVENUE SUITE 4714 NEW YORK, NY 10118			EPPERSON, JON D	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		1639		

DATE MAILED: 04/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/880,688	POUSTKA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jon D Epperson	1639

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) 1-36 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.

- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION***Election/Restriction***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-10, 15-26, drawn to a method for “applying substances to a support”, classified variously in class 435, subclass 6 depending on the nature of the method.
 - II. Claims 11-14, 27-36 drawn to an apparatus described as a “device for applying molecules to an essentially flat surface of a support”, classified variously in class 118, subclass 620+ depending on the nature of the device.
2. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:
3. Groups I-II represent separate and patentably distinct inventions. Groups I is drawn to a method and Groups II is drawn to an apparatus (i.e., e.g., which are directed to different purposes, use different materials, recite different method or process steps for the preparation of different product(s), screening of different characteristics, such as different binding affinities, different biochemical reaction conditions, etc. or lead to different final results). Therefore, the groups that describe the apparatus and the method have different issues regarding patentability and enablement, and represent patentably distinct subject matter, which merits separate and burdensome searches. Art anticipating or rendering obvious each of the above-identified groups respectively would not necessarily anticipate

or render obvious another group, because they are drawn to different inventions that have different distinguishing features.

4. These inventions have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification and/or divergent subject matter. The different methods and products would require completely different searches in both the patent and non-patent databases, and there is no expectation that the searches would be coextensive. Therefore, this does create an undue search burden, and restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Species Election

5. This application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention for Groups I-II. Election is required as follows.

6. If applicant elects the invention of Group I, applicant is required to elect from the following patentably distinct species. Claim 1 is generic.

Subgroup 1: Species of support (e.g., see claim 1)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of support (e.g., polystyrene films (e.g., see page 10, paragraph 31).

Subgroup 2: Species of monomers (e.g., see claim 1)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of monomers (e.g., amino acids (e.g., see figure 12).

Subgroup 3: Species of substances (e.g., see claim 1)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of substances (e.g., amino acids (e.g., see figure 12).

Subgroup 4: Species of matrix (e.g., see claim 1)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of matrix.

Subgroup 5: Species of first solvent (e.g., see claim 1)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of first solvent e.g., diphenyl formamide (e.g., page 14, paragraph 47).

Subgroup 6: Species of transport unit (e.g., see claim 1)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of transport unit.

Subgroup 7: Species of second solvent (e.g., see claim 1)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of second solvent e.g., dimethyl formamide (e.g., page 14, paragraph 47).

Subgroup 8: Species of temperature (e.g., see claim 1)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of temperature e.g., 50 °C (e.g., claim 1).

Subgroup 9: Species of printing method (e.g., see claims 5, 17)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of printing method if used e.g., inkjet printer.

Subgroup 10: Species of light source (e.g., see claims 6, 19)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of light source if used e.g., light-emitting diodes.

Subgroup 11: Species of element (e.g., see claims 8, 22)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of element e.g., preliminary stages of D or L amino acids. Please be specific, electing a broad genus will NOT be sufficient.

Subgroup 12: Species of protective group (e.g., see claim 9)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of protecting group e.g., fmoc (e.g., see figure 13).

Subgroup 13: Species of application (e.g., see claim 1, 15)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of application e.g., applied in the solid state of aggregation, applied in the liquid state of aggregation (e.g., see claims 1 and 15).

Subgroup 14: Species of particle size (e.g., see claim 16)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of particle size e.g., 200 μ m.

7. If applicant elects the invention of Group II, applicant is required to elect from the following patentably distinct species. Claim 11 is generic.

Subgroup 1: Species of support (e.g., see claim 27)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of support (e.g., polystyrene films (e.g., see page 10, paragraph 31).

Subgroup 2: Species of means for applying various fluids (e.g., see claim 27)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of means for applying various fluids e.g., inkjet.

Subgroup 3: Species of device (e.g., see claim 30)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of device e.g., laser copier (e.g., see claim 30).

Subgroup 4: Species of feedback device (e.g., see claims 31, 33)

Applicant must elect, for the purposes of search, a *single species* of feedback device e.g., uses a grid of position markings(e.g., see claim 33).

8. **Please Note:** Applicants must disclose which claims read on the elected species (see paragraphs 12 and 13 below).

9. The species are distinct, each from the other, because their structures and modes of action are different. They would also differ in their reactivity and the starting materials from which they are made. For different species of method, the method steps for each species would differ. Moreover, the above species can be separately classified. Consequently, the species have different issues regarding patentability and represent patentably distinct subject matter. Therefore, this does create an undue search burden, and election for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

10. Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable.

11. Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

12. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An

argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered **nonresponsive** unless accompanied by an election.

13. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, **applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species.** MPEP § 809.02(a).

14. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.43). Because the above restriction/election requirement is complex, a telephone call to applicants to request an oral election was not made. See MPEP § 812.01.

15. Applicant is reminded that upon cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

16. Applicant is also reminded that a 1 – month (not less than 30 days) shortened statutory period will be set for response when a written requirement is made without an

action on the merits. This period may be extended under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). Such action will not be an “action on the merits” for purposes of the second action final program, see MPEP 809.02(a).

17. Finally, Applicant is reminded that where applicant elects claims directed to a product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. **Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product** will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See “Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b),” 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the

right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon D Epperson whose telephone number is (571) 272-0808. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang can be reached on (571) 272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jon D. Epperson, Ph.D.
April 8, 2004



